

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

**MAY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
JUNE 1 GRAIN STOCKS
JUNE 1 CROP ACREAGE
PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS**

LOUISIANA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during May totaled 1.5 million pounds, down 6 percent from April, but unchanged from the previous year.

There were 1,800 head of **cattle** slaughtered during May, down 600 head from April, and 100 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 754 pounds, down 32 pounds from the previous month, and 39 pounds below May 1998. Total live weight was 1.4 million pounds, down 26 percent from April, and 6 percent below a year ago.

Calves slaughtered during May totaled 1,200 head, up 500 head from April, but 300 head below May 1998. Live weight averaged 485, up 17 pounds from April, and 22 pounds above a year ago. Total live weight at 0.6 million pounds was up 84 percent from April, but 17 percent below a year ago.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during May totaled 2,800 head, down 100 head from April, but 200 head above May 1998. Average live weight was 204 pounds, down 12 pounds from April, and 10 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 0.6 million pounds, down 9 percent from the previous month, but unchanged from May 1998.

The total number of **sheep** slaughtered during May was 200 head, unchanged from both April and the previous year. Live weight averaged 90 pounds, down 8 pounds from the previous month, and 3 pounds below the previous year.

UNITED STATES LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.60 billion pounds in May, up 1 percent from the 3.58 billion pounds produced in May 1998.

May 1998 and 1999 both contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and five Saturdays.

Comparing May 1999 with May 1998

Beef production at 2.15 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.00 million head, up 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 1,188 pounds.

Veal production totaled 17.0 million pounds, 10 percent below the previous record low for May set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 89 thousand head, down 12 percent from May 1998. The average live weight was 9 pounds above last year, at 311 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.42 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.44 million head, 2 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 259 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 18.0 million pounds, was down 7 percent from the previous record low for May set in 1998. Sheep slaughter totaled 270 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 135 pounds, down 4 pounds from May a year ago.

January-May red meat production was 18.8 billion pounds, 3 percent higher than the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was 3 percent higher than last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 6 percent.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

ITEM	LOUISIANA					UNITED STATES			
	April	May		Jan - May		May		Jan - May	
	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Number, thousand head									
Cattle	2.4	1.9	1.8	10.9	10.5	2,957.2	2,997.3	14,563.8	14,701.2
Calves	0.7	1.5	1.2	7.3	5.2	101.7	89.2	579.3	507.8
Hogs	2.9	2.6	2.8	16.7	16.4	7,571.2	7,438.3	40,674.3	41,543.9
Sheep & Lambs	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.3	280.8	270.0	1,669.3	1,570.2
Average live wt., lbs.									
Cattle	786	793	754	819	762	1,188	1,188	1,195	1,209
Calves	468	463	485	482	458	302	311	302	292
Hogs	216	214	204	212	216	256	259	257	259
Sheep & Lambs	98	93	90	115	108	139	135	136	135
Red meat, million lbs.	1.6	1.5	1.5	9.0	8.1	3,580	3,604	18,319	18,811

LOUISIANA GRAIN STOCKS

Total off-farm **Soybean** stocks were estimated at 5.2 million bushels, up 12 percent from a year ago.

Total off-farm **sorghum** stocks were estimated at 2.7 million bushels compared to 1.0 million bushels last year.

Off-farm holdings of **corn** totaled 12.9 million bushels, up 79 percent from 1998.

All wheat off-farm stocks totaled 7.1 million bushels, up 110 percent from a year ago. #

JUNE 1, 1999 GRAIN STOCKS

ITEM	LOUISIANA		UNITED STATES	
	June 1		June 1	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Thousand Bushels		Thousand Bushels	
Corn				
On Farm	1/	1/	1,830,000	2,257,000
Off Farm 2/	7,221	12,945	1,209,757	1,358,960
TOTAL	1/	1/	3,039,757	3,615,960
Oats				
On Farm	1/	1/	34,500	40,700
Off Farm 2/	1/	1/	39,498	40,686
TOTAL	1/	1/	73,998	81,386
Sorghum				
On Farm	1/	1/	27,200	27,400
Off Farm 2/	1,016	2,699	68,944	88,691
TOTAL	1/	1/	96,144	116,091
Soybeans				
On Farm	1/	1/	318,000	460,000
Off Farm 2/	4,623	5,164	275,654	390,274
TOTAL	1/	1/	593,654	850,274
All Wheat				
On Farm	1/	1/	224,210	277,710
Off Farm 2/	3,356	7,064	498,268	667,233
TOTAL	1/	1/	722,478	944,943

1/Not published. 2/Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors.

UNITED STATES GRAIN STOCKS

Corn stocks in all positions on June 1, 1999, totaled 3.62 billion bushels, up 19 percent from June 1, 1998. Of the total stocks, 2.26 billion bushels were stored on farms, up 23 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 1.36 billion bushels, were up 12 percent from a year ago. The March-May 1999 indicated disappearance was 2.08 billion bushels, 10 percent above the disappearance of 1.90 billion bushels during the same period a year earlier.

All wheat stored in all positions on June 1, 1999 totaled 945 million bushels, up 31 percent from a year ago to the biggest June number since the 1987-88 market year. Farm stocks at 278 million bushels, were up 24 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 667 million bushels, were up 34 percent. Disappearance for March - May 1999 was 505 million bushels, up 14 percent from the ending quarter in 1998.

Soybeans stored in all positions on June 1, 1999, totaled 850 million bushels, up 43 percent from stocks held on June 1, 1998. On-farm stocks totaled 460 million bushels, up 45 percent from last June, and accounted for 54 percent of the June 1, 1999 stocks. Off-farm stocks, at 390 million bushels, were up 43 percent from the previous year. Indicated disappearance for the March - May 1999 quarter totaled 607 million bushels, fractionally less than the same period one year ago.

Barley stocks in all positions on June 1, 1999, totaled 141 million bushels, up 18 percent from a year ago. Of the total barley stocks on hand, 52 million bushels were stored on farms, 19 percent above a year ago. June 1, 1999 off-farm stocks, at 89 million bushels, were 18 percent above last year. Indicated disappearance during March - May 1999 totaled 60 million bushels, 2 percent below the same period a year earlier.

Oats stored in all positions on June 1, 1999, totaled 81 million bushels, 10 percent above the stocks on June 1, 1998. Of the total stocks on hand, 40.7 million bushels were stored on farms, 18 percent above this time last year. Off-farm stocks also totaled 40.7 million bushels, 3 percent above a year earlier. Indicated disappearance during March - May 1999 totaled 31.2 million bushels, 16 percent less than the same period a year ago.

Grain sorghum stored in all positions on June 1, 1999, totaled 116 million bushels, up 21 percent from June 1, 1998. Of the total sorghum stocks on hand, 27 million bushels were stored on farms, slightly more than a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 89 million bushels, were 29

percent above the previous year. Disappearance for March - May 1999 was 106 million bushels, 23 percent less than the same quarter in 1998.

LOUISIANA CROP ACREAGE

Corn and soybean acreage in Louisiana will decrease from last year according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Conversely, rice, cotton, sorghum, and sugarcane acreage will increase from 1998.

Corn acreage, at 430,000 acres, is down 270,000 acres from 1998, and down 70,000 acres from the March 1 estimate.

Cotton acreage is expected to rebound to 570,000 acres, up 35,000 from last year. This is unchanged from the March 1 estimate.

Rice acreage, at 650,000 acres, is up 25,000 acres from 1998, but down 30,000 acres from the March 1 intentions. Of this total, long grain varieties will represent 605,000 acres or 93 percent, while medium grain varieties will represent the remaining 45,000 acres or 7 percent.

Grain sorghum acreage, at 260,000 acres, is up 130,000 acres from 1998, but down 10,000 from the March 1 estimate. This will be highest since 1986, when 370,000 acres were planted.

Soybean acreage is expected to total 1,050,000 acres, 150,000 fewer acres than last year, but up 50,000 from the March 1 estimate. If realized, this will be the lowest acreage in the State in 33 years.

Sweetpotato acreage is expected to total 22,000, up 1,000 acres from both the March 1 estimate, and last year.

Winter wheat producers planted an estimated 120,000 acres in the fall of 1998. This is up 20,000 acres from the previous year, but unchanged from March 1 estimate. Harvested acreage is set at 110,000, up 20,000 acres from 1998.

Hay harvested acres are projected at 360,000, up 30,000 from last year, and up 60,000 from the March 1 intentions.

Sugarcane acreage for harvest is estimated at 450,000, up 15,000 from last year. If realized, this will be the highest acreage ever recorded in the State. Louisiana now moves ahead of Florida to become the number one State in the United States for sugarcane acreage.#

UNITED STATES CROP ACREAGE

Corn planted for all purposes is estimated at 77.6 million acres, down 3 percent from last year. Growers expect to harvest 71.0

million acres for grain, down 2 percent from 1998. The corn acreage estimate was based on survey information collected between May 28 and June 17. Farmers responding to the survey indicated that 99 percent of the intended corn acreage had been planted at the time of the interview compared to an average of 96 percent for the past ten years.

Sorghum: Area planted to sorghum for all purposes is estimated at 9.05 million acres. The 1999 acreage is down 6 percent from last year, and 10 percent below the 1997 total. This is the lowest planted acreage since 1929. Growers in nine States planted fewer acres than the previous year. Texas, with 2.85 million acres, has the largest reduction of all States, decreasing 20 percent from 1998. Kansas, with the largest acreage at 3.60 million, increased 3 percent. Acreage expected for grain harvest in 1999, at 8.30 million, is 7 percent more than the 1998 grain acreage.

Winter Wheat: Acres harvested are now expected to total 35.6 million, down 1 percent from the June 1 forecast, and 11 percent less than the 1998 acreage for grain. This will be the smallest area for grain since 1972. Planted area is still 43.4 million acres, down 7 percent from last year. Most of the harvested area decrease is due to a 1 percent drop in Hard Red Winter grain acres.

Rice: Area planted to rice in 1999 is estimated at 3.60 million acres, 8 percent above 1998, and 15 percent above 1997's planted area. Area for harvested is estimated at 3.58 million acres, 8 percent above a year ago. Long grain planted acreage, representing 76 percent of the total, is up 4 percent from last year. Medium grain planted acreage increased 21 percent above 1998, while area planted to short grain varieties rose 37 percent. The U.S. crop condition was rated 81 percent fair to good.

Cotton: The United States planted area of all cotton for 1999 is estimated at 14.6 million acres, 9 percent above 1998, and 5 percent greater than 1997. Upland cotton is expected to total 14.2 million acres, up 9 percent from last year. Growers planted 318,200 acres of **American-Pima** cotton. This is a 3 percent decrease from last year's number, but 27 percent higher than the acreage of 2 years ago. California producers increased Pima plantings by 60,000 acres from 1998. **Upland** growers in the Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) planted 3.76 million acres. This total is a 17 percent increase from 1998, and 7 percent above 1997's acreage. Planting progressed near or above the 5-year average for most of the region. Nearly all plantings were complete by the survey reference date of June 1, 1999. Crop condition ratings for the first week of June showed each State with at least 60 percent of their acreage rated in good to excellent condition.

JUNE 1, 1998 ACREAGE REPORT

CROP	LOUISIANA				UNITED STATES			
	Planted		Harvested		Planted		Harvested	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	thousand acres				thousand acres			
Corn	700	430	1/ 540	1/ 410	80,187	77,611	1/ 72,604	1/ 71,039
Cotton, All	535	570	525	2/	13,392.5	14,559.2	10,683.6	2/
Hay, All	-	-	330	360	-	-	60,016	61,951
Rice: Long	595	605	590	600	2,629	2,725	2,608	2,704
Medium	30	45	30	45	678	823	671	819
Short	-	-	-	-	38	52	38	52
All	625	650	620	645	3,345	3,600	3,317	3,575
Sorghum	130	260	1/ 125	1/ 250	9,626	9,049	1/ 7,723	1/ 8,299
Soybeans	1,200	1,050	1,070	1,010	72,375	74,205	70,811	73,316
Sugarcane	-	-	435	450	-	-	947.1	963.5
Sweet potatoes	21	22	20	21	87.2	88.1	83.8	85.2
Wheat, Winter	100	120	90	110	46,449	43,419	40,126	35,649

1/Harvested for grain. 2/Estimates to be released August 12, 1999.

Soybeans: The 1999 planted area for soybeans is estimated at 74.2 million acres, 3 percent above last year's record acreage. Area for harvest is estimated at 73.3 million acres, up 4 percent from 1998 record harvest. Planted acreage has steadily increased every year since 1990 when the soybean planted area totaled 57.8 million acres. Estimated acreage increases are mainly occurring in the Corn Belt and Great Plains regions while decreases are more visible across the South, Southeast, and Mid-Atlantic States.

Hay: Producers expect to harvest 62.0 million acres of hay in 1999, up 3 percent from the 60.0 million acres harvested the previous year. Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures are expected to total 24.0 million acres, up 1 percent from 1998. All other hay is estimated at 38.0 million acres, up 4 percent from last year. Overall, producers in 20 States expect to harvest hay from more acres than last year. Acreage reductions are expected in 15 States, while growers in 13 States intend to harvest the same number of acres as 1998.

Sweetpotatoes: Growers have planted 88,100 acres of sweet potatoes this year, up 1 percent from last year, and 3 percent more than 1997. Increases in Louisiana and North Carolina more than offset decreases in Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, and New Jersey. Harvested acreage is forecast at 85,200 acres, up 2 percent from last year, and 4 percent above 1997. Across the South, dry weather slowed growth after an early planting schedule. Mississippi acreage was 35 percent planted by June 1 compared with 25 percent last year. Louisiana growers should complete planting by the end of June.

Sugarcane: U. S. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest a record high 963,500 acres for sugar and seed during the 1999 crop year,

2 percent more than last year's final harvested acres. The record high is due to a 15,000 acre expansion in Louisiana, where the use of a new high-yielding, high-sugar variety continues to increase. Warm weather and good moisture supplies have aided crop conditions and promoted rapid vegetative growth.

UNITED STATES PRICES INDEX DOWN

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in June was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 1.0 percent from May. The decrease was mostly due to the seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell. The normal decrease in marketings of oranges, tomatoes, strawberries, and cattle more than offset the relatively higher marketings of wheat, grapes, hay, and cantaloupes. The change in marketings was accompanied by a slight decrease in overall prices.

Compared with June 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 3.9 percent lower. Price decreases from June 1998 for soybeans, hogs, corn, and milk more than offset price increases for cattle, carrots, tomatoes, and turkeys.

THE LOUISIANA FARM REPORTER (ISSN-0273-883X) IS PUBLISHED TWICE EACH MONTH BY THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE, 5825 FLORIDA BLVD., BATON ROUGE, LA 70806. SUBSCRIPTION IS FREE TO RESPONDENTS AND COOPERATORS, \$10.00 ANNUALLY TO ALL OTHERS, AND IS AVAILABLE FROM THE ABOVE ADDRESS. PERIODICALS POSTAGE IS PAID AT JACKSON, MS 39204. POSTMASTER: SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS TO LOUISIANA FARM REPORTER, P. O. BOX 65038, BATON ROUGE, LA 70896-5038.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

ITEM	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY	ENTIRE MONTH		PRELIMINARY
	June 1998	May 1999	June 1999 1/	June 1998	May 1999	June 1999 1/
		dollars			dollars	
Soybeans, per bushels	N/A	4.30	4.48	6.16	4.51	4.43
Rice, per cwt.	10.40	7.71	7.40	9.58	8.16	8.09
Upland Cotton, per pound	.652	.548	2/ .537	.697	.561	2/ .566
Hay, all, baled, per ton 1/	N/A	N/A	N/A	91.80	91.60	81.70
Beef Cattle, per cwt.	43.70	44.80	45.80	61.80	62.10	63.60
Steers & Heifers, per cwt.	63.60	68.00	72.00	64.50	65.20	66.80
Cows, per cwt.	34.80	34.40	34.00	36.10	36.40	36.10
Calves, per cwt.	75.10	80.00	84.00	81.70	87.60	88.00
Broilers, live, per pound	N/A	N/A	N/A	.406	.378	.385
Eggs All, per dozen	N/A	N/A	N/A	.596	.529	.553
All Milk, per cwt. 3/	15.00	14.00	14.20	14.10	12.80	13.20

1/Mid-month; 2/Based on sales during the first half of the month; 3/Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

Internet Access:

*For free automatic e-mail subscriptions to this publication go to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm> or visit our homepage at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/la/>

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
(225) 922-1362
5825 FLORIDA BLVD., P. O. BOX 65038
BATON ROUGE, LA 70896-5038

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
is paid at
JACKSON, MS 39204